

HEALTH ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

Youth Health:

Teen Pregnancy:

Gibson County Adolescent Pregnancies by Number and Rate

Per 1,000 females aged 10-17 by Race

| Race/ Year | 1995 # Rate | 1994 # Rate | 1993 # Rate | 1992 # Rate | 1991 # Rate |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| All | 67 28.0 | 64 26.4 | 48 19.6 | 62 24.9 | 61 24.3 |
| White | 31 17.8 | 33 18.7 | 22 12.3 | 33 18.2 | 29 15.8 |
| Non- White | 36 56.0 | 31 47.8 | 26 39.6 | 29 43.0 | 32 47.0 |

After adjusting for other factors to teen pregnancy, the estimated cost of taxpayers is \$6.9 billion in lost tax revenues, increased health care, foster care, and the criminal justice system.

When adolescent girls give birth, they're future prospects decline. Teen mothers complete less school, are more likely to have large families, and are more likely to be single parents. Consequently, over time, and increasing percentage of teens have initiated sex sooner, have sex more frequently, and have sex with a greater number of partners prior to marriage. For example, in 1995, 66 percent of high school students reported having sex prior to graduation.

Children whose mothers were 17 or younger, tend to have more difficulty in school, have poorer health yet receive less health care, have less stimulating and appropriate home environments, have higher incarceration rates, and have higher rates of adolescent pregnancies and births. (Robin Hood Foundation data)

Teen Substance Abuse

In the next 24 hours: 9,506 teens will take their first drink of alcohol or use drugs. It is reported that 50% of all teens use alcohol or drugs.

The following comparisons are made using the Tennessee High School Survey of 1995 from the Northwest Region participants (Carroll, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion, and Weakley). Using the 1995-96-school enrollment, estimates of student involvement are derived from the regional percentages.

The 1995-96 Gibson County School's Enrollment for grades 9th through 12th was 2,692.

| Questions Asked | Northwest Estimates % | Gibson Schools Estimate |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Smoked Cigarettes | 64.5 | 1,736 |
| Used Smokeless Tobacco | 33.9 | 913 |
| Used Alcohol | 70.7 | 1,903 |
| Gotten Drunk from Alcohol | 68.5 | 1,844 |
| Used Marijuana | 31.1 | 837 |
| Used Crack/Cocaine | 5.4 | 145 |
| Used Inhalants | 18.6 | 501 |
| Bought Drugs at School | 14.8 | 398 |
| Offered/Given Drugs at School | 39.5 | 1,063 |
| Driven after Drinking (last 12 months) | 21.2 | 571 |
| Driven after Drug Use (last 12 months) | 16.6 | 447 |